

## REMARKS

Claims 7-11 are currently pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious from Kao. Claims 1-6 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 7 recites, among other limitations, “a comparator for determining whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”.

Examiner has indicated that the foregoing limitation reads on figures 3, 7, and 9. Assignee respectfully traverses.

Assignee respectfully submits that Kao does not teach “a comparator for determining whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”. The “Subtractor 309” receives the output of “Gray Code to Sequential Converter 308” and the “Read Pointer 305” which is implemented by “a convention sequential counter”. Kao, Col. 3, Lines 35-36. Similarly, in Figure 9, “Subtractor” receives the output of the “Gray Code to Sequential Converter” and the write pointer, which is implemented by a conventional sequential counter. Kao Col. 7, Lines 7-9. Even if Figures 3 and 9 were combined, the combination does not teach “a comparator for determining whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”.

As for Figure 7, “Fig. 7 illustrates a status indicator used in the asynchronous dual port FIFO of FIG. 3”. As noted above, the “status indicator” in Kao, Figure 3 does not determine “whether the FIFO is empty or full based on a comparison of a Gray code associated with the read pointer and a Gray code associated with the write pointer”.

Accordingly, for the above reasons, Assignee respectfully traverses the rejection to claim 7 as obvious from Kao, and requests that Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 7, and dependent claims 8 – 10.

Assignee also traverses the rejection to claim 11 for the reasons indicated above.

#### CONCLUSION

Assignee respectfully submits that each of the pending claims are allowable, making the application in a condition for allowance. Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this case to issuance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 13-0017 in the name of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



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